

ECA ALUMNI KAZAKHSTAN ALUMNIPOST



U.S. Embassy Almaty Public Affairs Section

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PAS NEWS

PAS Almaty says "Thank you" to Mr. Jonathan Mennuti who has been Cultural Affairs Officer since August 2004.

PAS Almaty welcomes Ms. Naomi Feigenbaum – the new Cultural Affairs Officer.



Cultural Affairs Officer Naomi Feigenbaum

CULTURAL NEWS

HERALD FITZGERALD FILM FESTIVAL IN ALMATY

In early November PAS Almaty brought independent filmmaker Michael Fitzgerald to Kazakhstan for a presentation of his works and interaction with the Kazakhstani filmmaking community. The festival included the showing of Fitzgerald's Cannes Film Festival award-winning film *The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*, which had not yet been released in the United States. The Kazakhstani audience gave the film thunderous applause and said that they could relate to the film's themes. Filmmaker Fitzgerald was a great cultural diplomat who, in addition to conducting very successful master classes at the Academy of Arts, held question and answer sessions after the showing of each of his films. He plans to produce a film in Kazakhstan next year.



Photo by PAS: Fitzgerald's master class with Film Department students at Academy of Arts

BRIAN NEELY PHOTO SHOW IN ULAR GALLERY

"As my life moves into the 40th year, I ask myself what it has meant so far. What have I seen? What have I felt? What have I done? I also begin to wonder whether I will make a visible, lasting mark on humanity, and whether that's even important. And if it isn't important, why do I take pictures? Perhaps in 40 more years, I will have some answers." Brian Neely's exhibit consisted of black and white photos taken in Kazakhstan and the United States. The exhibition was on display December 9-29, 2005.

KASTEYEV STATE FINE ARTS MUSEUM WINS AN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AWARD WITH THE SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The two museums will work together over the next two years to share digital resources on ethnographic and ethno-biological collections. The joint project will give broad access to data on Central Asian culture and will introduce new forms of information technology.

Leila Aitmukhanova
Cultural Affairs Assistant, PAS

ВСТРЕЧА ВЕКОВ

Казахстанская ассоциация ремесленников организовал совместную выставку-продажу эксклюзивных ювелирных украшений мастеров индейцев навахо (Аризона, США) и казахских зергеров «Встреча веков». На выставке были представлены работы Дэнисона Тсоси, Баширова Сержана, Мукажанова Амана, Рысбекова Серика. Дэнисон Тсоси мастер-ювелир, работающий в традиционном стиле и технике индейцев навахо. С творчеством наших мастеров многие алмаатинцы знакомы. Каждый из них работает в своём неповторимом стиле, сочетающем традиции и современность. На выставке так же представлены современные инсталляции и традиционные предметы быта казахов и индейцев. Изделия народов проживающих на разных континентах имеют определённую схожесть, в чём вы можете убедиться, посетив нашу выставку.



U.S. EXPERT ADDRESSES E-GOVERNMENT ISSUES

On September 26 and 30, Dr. Stuart W. Shulman, Assistant Professor in the School of Information Sciences and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, and Senior Research Associate in the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Social and Urban Research, made a presentation on E-rulemaking processes in the United States for governmental employees in Almaty and Oskemen.



Photo by PAS: Shulman at East Kazakhstan Public Library

In the presentations, Dr. Shulman emphasized the role of the public in the decision making process in the United States, which was enhanced by introducing new technologies in governance. The U.S. expert also stressed that e-government means more transparency and more public participation and, therefore, more democracy in the political process. A significant role in developing digital citizenship is being played by public libraries, which provide access and training for citizens.

Dr. Shulman also participated in an online chat with USG alumni in Oskemen, where he spoke about the necessity for computer and technology literacy for both governmental employees and citizens.

*Elmira Kireyeva,
IRC Coordinator, PAS*

BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION

U.S. expert William Lewis conducted seminars on "Building a Successful Organization" for USG alumni, NGOs, and higher education institutions. Lewis is President of Extension Management Inc., a management consulting firm serving organizations that seek growth through their people and a planned process of continuous improvement.

He is also president of the Global Business Development Group NGO. The goal of the program was to help USG alumni, local faculty, and students learn team development techniques and enhance their leadership skills. Lewis visited KIMEP, KBTU, and UIB. Audiences appreciated his discussion of issues related to strategic planning, business ethics, and high performance team development.



Photo by PAS: William Lewis

RELO TOURING KAZAKHSTAN

David Fay, the new Regional English Language Officer (RELO), conducted a five-day-long tour of three cities in Kazakhstan – Almaty, Astana and Shymkent. The prime goal of the visit was to assess English teaching needs and to conduct workshops for English teachers. During his trip he did two workshops for pre- and in-service English teachers, met the NATEK, Almaty and Shymkent TEA Presidents, English Language Fellow Anthony Samuel, the ACCELS director in Almaty, the ACCELS representative in Astana, the rector and vice-rector of the Astana Institute of Management, and the president of Miras University. He worked with alumni and Village Project teacher trainers, attended a demonstration lesson in the Academy of Languages, and visited the Astana and Shymkent Resource Centers. Kazakhstani teachers and alumni had an opportunity to discuss ways to better serve the needs of English language teachers and trainers.

*Lyudmila Smirnova,
English Language Specialist, PAS*

CREATING STUDENT-CENTERED CLASSROOMS

From September 19 through October 1 the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section hosted English Language Specialist Jim Mahoney, who did a two-week long program in Almaty, Aktau, and Atyrau.

The topic of the program was "Creating Student-Centered Classrooms." Most of the program was devoted to ways of building a learning community, teaching students, and using writing to learn. Viewing teaching portfolios as reflective and assessment tools aroused particular interest in different audiences and inspired teachers brainstorm about how they could apply them to their own teaching environment. The idea of involving students in their own progress was enthusiastically supported, since self-sponsored tasks help develop the ability to write, read, and think, which is an integral part of democracy. The program enabled more than 280 university and schoolteachers, as well as undergraduate students from eight higher educational institutions and a number of high schools, to see the advantages of shifting the focus of the teaching process from teachers to students.

*Lyudmila Smirnova,
English Language Specialist, PAS*



Photo by PAS: Mahoney at Kazakh University of International Relations and World Languages

ALUMNI AWARDED BOLASHAK SCHOLARSHIP

Three USG alumni were recently awarded Bolashak International Scholarships of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Anar Umurzakova (UGRAD '03) will pursue a Master of Sciences in Project Management at George Washington University in January.

Olzhas Bilyalov (UGRAD '03) is pursuing a Master of Sciences in Transport and Business Management at the Imperial College of Science Technology and Medicine.

Farkhat Kasymov (FLEX'04) will pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration in Harvard University. Malobrodskaya Valeriya (FLEX'05) will study innovative management this year.

ALUMNI ATTEND ADDRESS OF US SECRETARY STATE CONDOLEEZA RICE IN ASTANA

Alumni of US-government exchange programs were invited by the U.S. Embassy to attend the address of U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at the Eurasian National University in Astana on October 13. In her remarks, Secretary Rice discussed current bilateral relations between the United States and Kazakhstan, applauded Kazakhstan for its post-independence achievements, and urged Kazakhstan's leaders to expand "... the range of free speech and free assembly and free choices" for citizens.

Alumni and other members of the audience had the opportunity to pose questions to Secretary Rice. One student seeking to study in the United States asked Secretary Rice for advice on how to choose a university, to which she replied: "The most important thing is to find a university that fits you, that is best for you, because there are a lot of very good universities, but if you are not comfortable in that university, then you won't succeed."

Secretary Rice continued: "In other words, when you are choosing a university, don't choose it because of its name. Choose it because you've researched what that university has that you are interested in pursuing. You may like being in a large city in America or you might like being in a small town. But I can assure you of one thing: You're going to have a great experience when you go to university. American universities are wonderful places."

IREX

JFDP PDO

On November 28-29, 2005, ACCELS conducted pre-departure orientation (PDO) for six JFDP finalists, who represented Petropavlovsk, Pavlodar, Almaty, Karaganda, and Aktobe. Victoria Sloan, Public Affairs Officer, welcomed the newly minted JFDP Fellows and



Photo by ACIE: JFDP PDO

touched on the many opportunities afforded them both in the United States and after their return to their home country. Over two days, Fellows reviewed JFDP rules and regulations along with other important policy issues. Fellows watched a pre-recorded session by Dr. Kappler, a specialist in cross-cultural communication. ACCELS representatives provided a general overview of the university placement process and the role of the academic adviser and factual information about the program. JFDP Fellows had also computer training conducted at IATP Center, IREX.

Saule Moldabekova, ACIE

FLEX AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

To promote the FLEX program, alumni made 11 presentations throughout Kazakhstan, including Almaty, Astana, Lisakovsk, Petropavlovsk, Uralsk, and West Kazakhstan oblast, Posyolok Podstepnoye. All presentations were made for 8-10th graders. In addition, 27 alumni and about 20 students participated in Gaukhar Kirneyeva's presentation about the Global Village Program. Gaukhar took part in this three-month program in Lehigh University, USA. The program is designed for young lawyers, economists, and entrepreneurs who want to further their knowledge and skills. Gaukhar's presentation discussed the goals, structure, and benefits of attending the Global Village Program. She also talked about scholarship opportunities for attending the program.

Zhibek Karamanova,
FLEX Alumni Coordinator, ACIE

UGRAD AND MUSKIE PROGRAMS ADVERTISED TO WIDE AUDIENCE

IREX staff participated in the 3rd annual International Education Fair at which more than 20 different universities and language schools from all over the world presented their programs. Staff distributed more than 300 Muskies and Ugrad information flyers and made presentations for all visitors of the fair. Potential applicants asked many questions about the selection process as well as the program requirements, terms, and conditions.

IREX

COLLEGE FACULTY DISCOVER DISTANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITES

Twelve college faculty members from the Aktobe branch of Almaty Academy of Economics and Statistics completed a four-week course on fundamentals of distance learning (DL) led by Malik Nassyrov, the administrator of the Independent Internet Center (IIC) in Aktobe. Nassyrov introduced the teachers to the goals of DL, its implementation, registration procedures, and required prerequisites.

He covered all the courses hosted by the IATP Distance Learning (DL) portal (www.dl.iatp.kz), which includes material on psychology, economics, project management and grant writing, math, journalism, and Web design, provides contact information for the course alumni, and provides an update on what they do now.

Yelena Sidorkina, IATP/IREX

ALUMNI BUILD RESUME-WRITING AND INTERVIEWING SKILLS

On October 28, Kulzhama Zhandalinova, chairman of the "Business Initiative" NGO in Astana, conducted training for USG alumni in Astana. The training began with tips on preparing for interviews and a discussion of the most common interview questions. Ms. Zhandalinova then addressed the importance of resumes, emphasizing the advantages and disadvantages of unusual forms of resumes and the importance of an employer-oriented resume. Throughout the training, Ms. Zhandalinova emphasized that good resumes and interviews start from a person and not from paper.

ALUMNI CONDUCT INTERNET AND QUALITY FIRST AID WORKSHOPS IN SEMIPALATINSK

On October 17 and 21, two alumni of USG-sponsored exchange programs in Semipalatinsk conducted workshops on Internet basics and on quality first aid within the framework of Alumni Advisory Council (AAC) alumni activities.

On October 17, Mirhat Aydarhanov (CC '04) conducted a two-hour workshop on online educational Web resources, search engines, and e-mail services for 12 college students from Shakarima Semipalatinsk State University (SSSU) at the Independent Internet Center (IIC). Aydarhanov, who visited U.S. firms and business corporations on a month-long business development program, is the head of the Economic Theory Department at the SSSU. The workshop covered tips on the brief history of Internet development, search engines, and international educational project iEARN's website (<http://www.earn.org/>).

On October 21, Orumbert Kim (CC '00) led a seminar on quality first aid for 12 employees of local hospitals, students from the medical academy, and local health nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) at the Independent Internet Center (IIC) in Semipalatinsk. Kim, who earned a Ph.D. in Medicine from Semipalatinsk State Medical Academy (SSMA) and studied environmental protection issues in the

United States, is a lecturer at the SSMA and coordinates various education-related projects at the Academy. Over the course of the seminar, the participants explored a countrywide program on the reforming health care system, the quality of first aid, and what knowledge medics should possess. They visited the online newspaper *Medical Newspaper* at <http://medgazeta.rusmedserv.com/>, which contains the latest medical news in Kazakhstan and around the world, including Kim's monograph on quality medical aid.

IREX

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION
ALUMNI GRANTS PROGRAM
U.S. EMBASSY, ALMATY**

U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section accepts applications to its Alumni Grants program. The purposes of this program are to provide alumni with networking opportunities; to further the professional development of alumni and their colleagues; and to assist them in the implementation and teaching of concepts that they explored during their exchange programs.

Awards may be used for the following:

- to initiate a public or community service program;
- to support alumni association events;
- to organize training programs or conferences for professional colleagues and/or other alumni;
- grants for travel of Eurasian and Southeast European alumni within Europe and Eurasia, including regional alumni events;
- cost-sharing for international travel grants for alumni to the United States;
- continued funding for existing alumni centers, and start-up costs for alumni associations;
- networking events;
- develop and publish textbooks, brochures, pamphlets, or related reference or educational materials on topics that further USG assistance goals; and
- conduct other projects that support democratic and economic reform initiatives.

AMOUNT:

\$3000 for individuals and \$5000 for organizations

DEADLINES:

The U.S. Embassy accepts applications to grants at ANY TIME.

If you receive funding, you will be required to submit a detailed program and financial report on the outcomes of the project.

WHERE TO SUBMIT:

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AMERICAN CORNERS

The first American Corner in Kazakhstan was opened in 2003. American Corners are small American-style libraries created to help increase mutual understanding between Kazakhstan and the United States by making information about America available in a variety of formats.

The Corners offer books, CD-ROMs, videos, Internet access and other programs. A professional bilingual librarian who has received special training about American Corners will help users to find information about the United States.

The Corners regularly host a variety of cultural and educational events and are excellent places for students, teachers, and other audiences to meet.

American Corners offer their visitors various resources, such as:

- Books about American history, geography, politics, government, culture, education, etc.;
- American encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other reference materials;
- CD-ROMs with information about the United States;
- American fiction;
- American documentaries and movies;
- Internet access.

The American Corner Program in Kazakhstan is expanding:

Oskemen American Culture Center
East Kazakhstani Oblast Universal Library
102 Ushanov St., Oskemen
Tel: (8-3232) 261333
www.pushkinlibrary.kz/ACC/

Shymkent American Corner
South Kazakhstani Oblast Science Technical Library
10 Baitursynov St., Shymkent
Tel: (8-3252) 210355
info@ukntb.kz

Atyrau American Corner
Atyrau Oblast Universal Library
13 Satpayev St., Atyrau
Tel: (8-3122) 270849
atyraulib@arc.freenet.kz

Uralsk American Corner
West Kazakhstani Oblast Library for Children and Youth
166/1 Dostyk Ave., Uralsk
Tel: (8-3112) 504419; 503447
kindlib_uralsk@mail.ru

Petropavlovsk American Corner
North Kazakhstani Oblast Universal Library
25 Constitution Ave., Petropavlovsk
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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 4, Workshop on "A Fresh Look at Teaching Grammar," Shymkent Teachers of English Association.

February (dates TBD), English Language Specialist Program on Teaching English to Younger Learners in Almaty and Zhezkazgan.

February (dates TBD), Photography of Gabrielle Stillwater at the Kasteev Fine Arts Museum sponsored by PAS.

February-March (dates TBD), Opening of American Corners in Uralsk, Karaganda, Aktobe, and Almaty.

February 23-24, International Conference on Discourse Studies.

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear ECA Alumni:

We welcome your success stories, articles, letters to the editor, class notes, including personal notes, news, birthdays, marriages, promotions, and memorials. You may also post announcements related to alumni activities. We will be gradually including your stories as time and space allow. Please send your articles to mukanovaab@state.gov.

Игорь Бурнашов, выпускник RSEP'96
Очерки о Нью-Йорке,
Вашингтоне и Майами
(начало в выпусках № 12, 13, 14, 15, 16)

МАЙАМИ

Население

В этническом плане Майами состоит главным образом из испаноговорящего населения (примерно 65% от общего количества всего городского населения), знающего, естественно, и английский язык. В США жителей, говорящих по-испански, называют Hispanics. Не следует забывать и того факта, что островитяне, живущие в районе Карибского бассейна и многие граждане латиноамериканских стран (этих последних именуют в Северной Америке Latinos) мигрируют в Майами с целью либо воссоединения со своими родственниками, либо занятия бизнесом. Такая ситуация сложилась ввиду того, что на протяжении целого ряда столетий Флорида, многие острова Карибского бассейна и Латинская Америка были частью огромной испанской империи. Майами стал сферой приложения латиноамериканского бизнеса, и это во многом содействует его процветанию. Если добавить к этому, что сюда прибывают на постоянное место жительства европейские испанцы, то не стоит удивляться наибольшей концентрации испаноязычного населения в США именно в данном месте. Кроме того, афроамериканцы и американцы европейского происхождения также представлены здесь.

Кстати, наплыв гостей в Майами как из других американских городов, так и из-за рубежа обеспечивает самую высокую в США пропускную способность местного международного аэропорта в плане пассажиро- и грузопотока.

Повседневная жизнь

В Майами в отличие от Вашингтона и особенно Нью-Йорка нет значительных памятников культуры. Есть несколько не очень крупных музеев (например, музей южной Флориды), прекрасный океанариум. Это также город многочисленных магазинов, баров и ресторанов с этнической спецификой. Своеобразны аптеки, в которых продаются не только лекарства, но и продукты, бытовые товары и косметика. Цены на товары в магазинах самые разные и все это зависит от респектабельности торговых точек.

Что касается улиц Майами, то они такие же, как и на всей территории страны – прямые, а иногда извилистые.

Но, тем не менее, нельзя не сказать об океанской улице, названной так потому, что она является последней перед открывающимся человеческому взору океану. Она сказочно красива в вечерние и ночные часы, когда молодежь заполняет освещенные мириадами огней бары и рестораны. Если отправиться от океанской улицы к водным просторам, то сразу бросается в глаза сооруженный человеком из песка замок, напоминающий средневековую старину, который красив в темное время суток, поскольку с помощью огня свечей возникают причудливые тени-формы.

Хотелось бы также отметить улицу под названием Lincoln road mall, то есть эта улица специально предназначена для отдыхающих ввиду большого сосредоточения здесь магазинов, питательных заведений, пиццерий и ресторанов. Для тех, кто решил совершить шоп-тур и хорошенько отдохнуть, это самое подходящее место.

Некоторые сувениры, продающиеся в Майами, сделаны с искрометным и неистощимым чувством юмора. Наибольшей оригинальностью отличается следующий: старичок, сидящий на унитазах, со спущенными трусами и отрывающий бумагу для совершения нужного дела (или как вариант – пожилой человек, сидящий на унитазах и читающий книгу). Кроме того, видел зажималку в виде женской фигуры с приличным бюстом. Акулий зуб продается запакованным в маленьком пузырьке.

Я слышал от своих коллег, побывавших в США, о беспрецедентных мерах безопасности, предпринимаемых службой аэропортов. Но воочию убедился в этом только в день своего отъезда. В отношении того, что проверяли людей и сумки на предмет наличия более или менее крупных металлических предметов, это понятно. Не является чем-то экстраординарным и тот факт, что секьюрити заставляли снимать пассажиров обувь, в том числе и автора данных строк. Но когда я увидел своими глазами шмон, который делают в чемоданах работники аэропорта, осматривая буквально каждую вещь, то сначала очень удивился, а потом понял, что это делается ради блага и безопасности каждого пассажира, летящего в конкретном самолете. Хочу дать небольшой совет тем людям, которые собираются лететь в США: никогда не закрывайте на замок (не замки-молнии, а небольшие висячие замки) своих чемоданов, предназначенных для самолетного багажа. В противном случае замки будут взломаны и, более того, вы рискуете иметь поломанными и дужки молний, с помощью которых закрываются чемоданы.

(Точнее это происходит во время полетов на самолетах внутри США или когда вы летите оттуда домой. При перелете же из, скажем, Алматы в Сан-Франциско подобное не случается). Эта неприятная процедура, к сожалению, произошла со мной.

Вашингтон и Майами – два южных города США с точки зрения климатических условий, как и Нью-Йорк, впрочем, тоже. Знакомство с первыми двумя городами дополняет наше представление об американской действительности, очень разнообразной и в чем-то поучительной, делает его осязаемой, а не по слухам или телепередачам. Вашингтон и Майами – это еще не все США, но в тоже время у вас возникает своеобразное чувство сопричастности к этим городам, его населению и культуре, которые становятся родными, неотъемлемой частицей вашего “я”. У меня данное чувство возникло уже позднее, после возвращения оттуда, когда осмысливал увиденное и услышанное там. Отношение к американской действительности может быть различным, но нельзя не признать факта, что мы познаем мир (в данном случае американский) такой, какой он есть. В этом плане я благодарен судьбе, что второй раз оказался в Америке. Мое представление о ней значительно расширилось и дополнилось после первого ее посещения в 1996 г. Насколько же оно получилось разнообразным и интересным, пускай судит читатель.

ОТ РЕДАКТОРА

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